From: Torres, Francine
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2005 9:30 AM
To: Benham, Katherine; Neal, Arthur
Subject: FW: Positive comments on the chitosan petition

-----Original Message-----
From: chitosan@mail.wsu.edu%inter2 [mailto:chitosan@mail.wsu.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2005 4:00 PM
To: Torres, Francine
Subject: Positive comments on the chitosan petition

Dr. Torres,

I have been informed that my petition for the addition of chitosan (poly-D-glucosamine) to the National Organic Programs List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) is on the agenda of the next National Organic Standards Board Meeting (NOSB). I have been given the opportunity to comment on this petition. Much of the documentation is in the petition, however, I would like to make some general statements in support of the petition.

Chitosan is one of the most amazing natural compounds on earth. It is found prevalently in the soil and constitutes the primary cell wall compound in microorganisms called the Mucors. It is partially acetylated in nature and its full acetylated form is chitin, the second most prevalent organic substance on earth. It is a natural match for multiple uses by organic growers. It has received prior approval by the NOP in that it is on their list 4 - to be used in combination with other components. However chitosan's inclusion on the regular "National List" will enable its application for numerous advantages to the organic grower. Chitosan is derived mostly from crab shells and the utilization of chitosan in agriculture gives these crab shells commercial value. This utilization in turn helps prevent the pollution generated in the past that has fouled waters in the vicinity of crab meat processing plants.

Chitosan has acquired additional value more recently because it can by used to produce glucosamine. Glucosamine has a wide-spread medical use in human cartilage regeneration.

Therefore, Chitosan has no carcinogenic or other health-threatening properties, it is natural, beneficial to agriculture and safe.

Thank you,

Lee Hadwiger

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